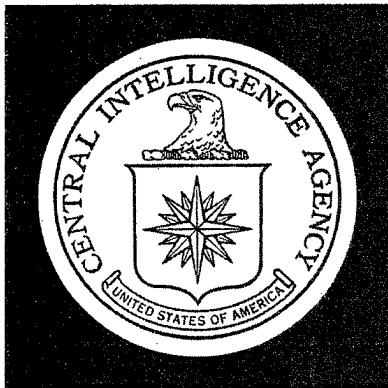


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OSI-WS-35/67

28 August 1967



DIRECTORATE OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WEEKLY SURVEYOR

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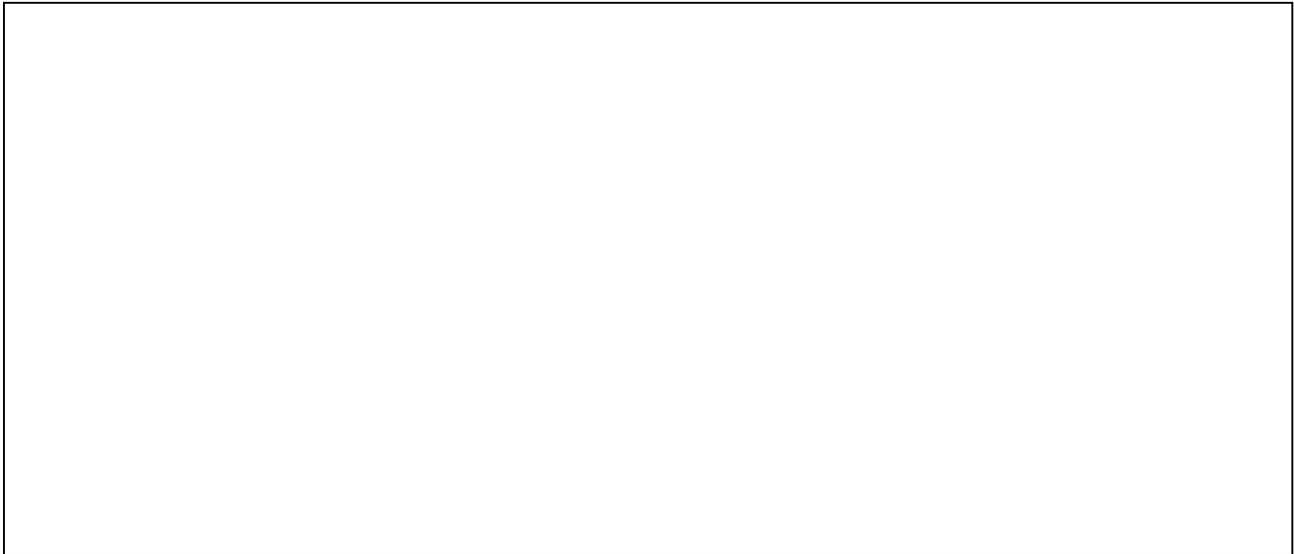
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WEEKLY SURVEYOR

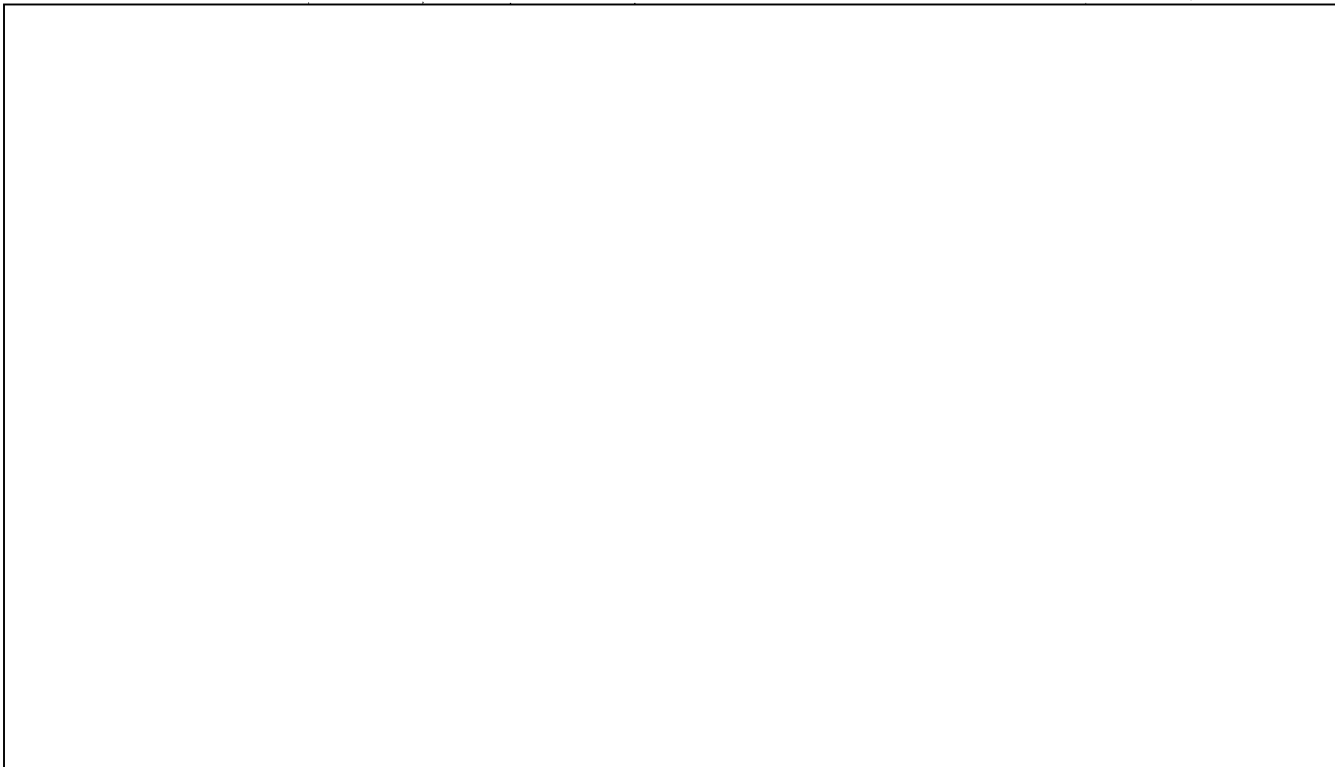
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OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS

Egyptian Ballistic Missile Program Suspended..... 1



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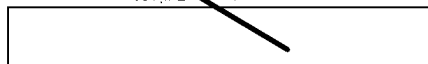
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Weekly Surveyor

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OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS

Egyptian Ballistic Missile Program Suspended: About mid-June, apparently as a direct result of military defeat, the Egyptian Government suspended the short-range Conqueror ballistic missile program. The purpose of the suspension was to conduct a financial, technical and managerial review. The Victor ballistic missile program had been cancelled in May.

The program director, Brigadier Isam al-Din Mahmud Khalil, was involuntarily retired. Although Khalil was not involved in the recent fighting, the fact that he was an Air Force general and heavily involved in a floundering missile program, probably resulted in his inclusion in the purge of general officers in June. Khalil was one of the few more capable Egyptians involved in the program and will be difficult to replace. Over-all responsibility for the ballistic missile program now resides in General Diya al-Din Taha, head of the General Aero Organization.

The cancellation of the Victor program was the result not only of development difficulties but of the missile's marginal military value. (The Victor could carry a 500-lb payload to about 200 nm with very poor accuracy.) About 60 static and flight tests of the Victor had been made before cancellation of the program. Twenty-two static tests were made during the last two years but only a few flight tests are believed to have occurred, the last in April 1967. These tests reportedly supplied some useful information for the development of the larger Conqueror because of its similarity in design.

Coincident with the cancellation of the Victor program, the Conqueror program was placed on a crash basis. Six to eight Conquerors were to be constructed and fired during August. Only two were completed by the time fighting started. Construction stopped at that time and there has probably been very little activity since. The missile plant, Factory 333 at Heliopolis, was closed at the start of hostilities, but suffered no damage.

The current review of the Conqueror program will probably result in a cut-back of the program's pace for some time, with work being continued only in the critical areas of development. The program could be placed in caretaker status but it is unlikely that it will be abandoned entirely.

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